

# Inside Wallops

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## NASA Gives Go For Space Shuttle Return to Flight

NASA has cleared the Space Shuttle to Return to Flight. After a two-day Flight Readiness Review meeting at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, senior managers approved a July 13 launch date for Discovery.

Commander Eileen Collins and her crew are scheduled to lift off at 3:51 p.m. EDT on the first U.S. space flight since the February 2003 loss of the Shuttle Columbia.

"After a vigorous, healthy discussion our team has come to a decision: we're ready to go," NASA Administrator Michael Griffin said after the meeting. "The past two-and-a-half years have resulted in significant improvements that have greatly reduced the risk of flying the Shuttle. But we should never lose sight of the fact that space flight is risky.

"The Discovery mission, designated STS-114, is a test flight," Griffin said, noting that astronauts will try out a host of new Space Shuttle safety enhancements. In addition, Discovery will carry 15 tons of supplies and replacement hardware to the International Space Station. July 13 is the



NASA Photo

Noguchi, a Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut.

The crew will test design changes that will reduce the chances of damage to the Shuttle, procedures for in-flight inspection of the Space Shuttle heat shield, and repair techniques — all in response to the Columbia accident.

The mission also features three spacewalks, including one to replace a Space Station gyroscope.

Aboard the Station, Expedition 11 Commander Sergei Krikalev, a Russian Federal Space Agency cosmonaut, and Flight Engineer and NASA Station Science Officer John Phillips will greet Discovery. Krikalev and Phillips are on a six-month mission. They have been aboard the Station since April 17.

Returning the Space Shuttle to flight is the first step in the Vision for Space Exploration. The Space Shuttle will be used to continue construction of the International Space Station, a crucial test bed for exploration missions.

beginning of three weeks of possible launch days that run through July 31.

Joining Collins aboard Discovery will be pilot Jim Kelly and Mission Specialists Steve Robinson, Andy Thomas, Wendy Lawrence, Charlie Camarda and Soichi

### Wallops Shorts.....

#### In the News

Aviation Week - "Blast Off"

Eastern Shore News – "Contractors Unearth Grave at Wallops NOAA Complex" and "NASA Visitor Center Events Scheduled"

#### Launch

A Terrier ASAS sounding rocket was launched from Wallops Island on June 28. The flight was a demonstration of the vehicle configuration. John Hickman, NASA Sounding Rockets Program Office, was the principal investigator. John Dickerson, NASA Range and Mission Management Office, was the project manager, and Tracy Gibb, NASA Sounding Rocket Operations Contract, was the mission manager.

## C-5 Makes a Wallops Delivery

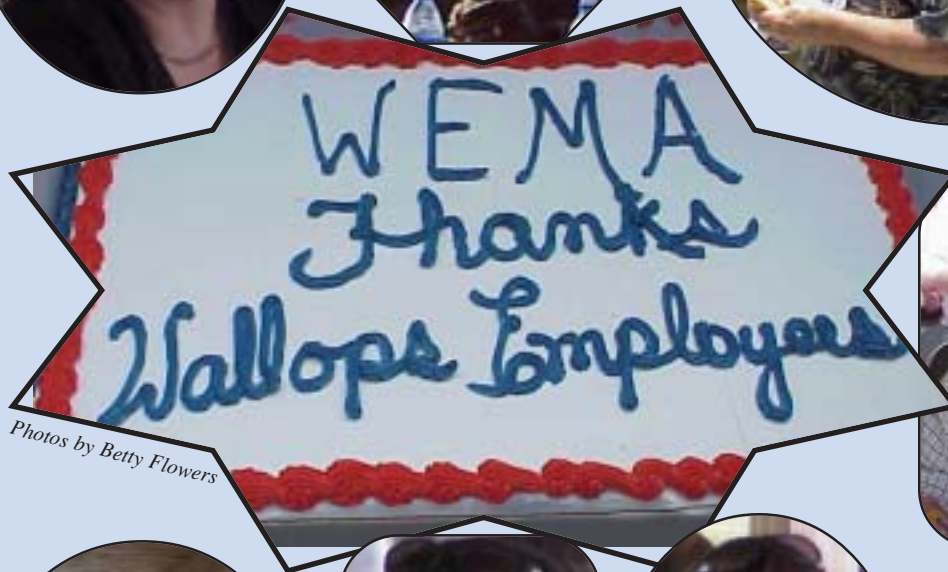


Photo by James Mason-Foley

An Air Force Reserve C-5 Galaxy aircraft based in Westover, Mass. arrived at Wallops on June 30 from Vandenberg, Calif., to deliver a clean room on wheels for spacecraft to Swales Aerospace. The unit is scheduled to be transported, July 6 by VT Griffin employees, to a Swales storage facility in Pocomoke City, Md. The C-5 departed Wallops on Friday morning, July 1.



*The Wallops Exchange and Morale Association hosted a picnic for Wallops employees on June 30. The Unplugged group and Voices of Wallops provided musical entertainment.*



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 Editor

Betty Flowers